Installation Instructions and Brief Tutorial for:
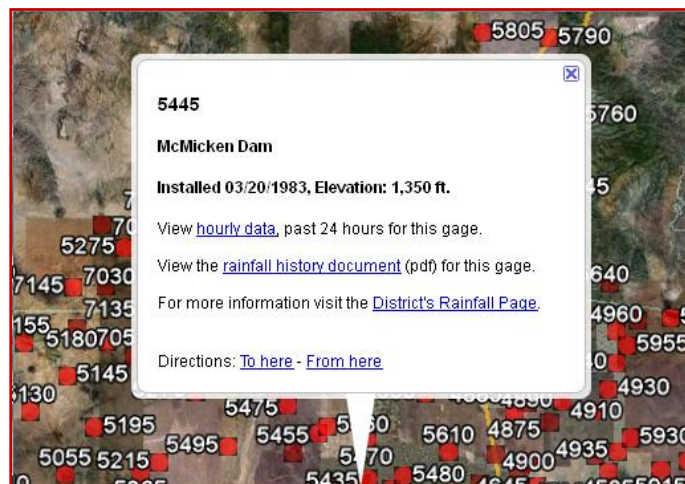
FCDMC_ALERT_Stations_XP.kml (for Windows^{TM} XP) &

FCDMC_ALERT_Stations_64.kml (for Windows^{TM} 7 and Vista^{TM})

FCDMC_ALERT_Stations is a Google Earth application for displaying the locations and recent data for ALERT stations owned and operated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County; Phoenix, Arizona. This tutorial assumes that the user has a basic understanding of Google Earth operation.

1.   Install Google Earth^{TM} 5.0 or later. In Windows XP the default installation folder is C:\Program Files\Google\Google Earth. In Windows 7 and Vista (64 bit) the installation folder is C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Google Earth, where C: is the root of the local disk.

2.   Download FCDMC_ALERT_Stations.zip to your Windows desktop. Unzip it, and save ..._XP.kml to your desktop if you're using Windows XP or save ..._64.kml if you're using Windows 7 or Vista. Save the file Station_icon.gif to one of the installation folders cited above, again depending on your version of Windows. The kml application will function without the icon, but it looks better with it.

3.   Double-click on the icon you just copied to your desktop, i.e. FCDMC…kml. It will start Google Earth and you will see "FCDMC_ALERT_Stations_[XP or 64].kml" in your Google Earth Temporary Places.

4.   Click on the "+" sign next to "FCDMC_ALERT_Stations_[XP/64].kml" to expand the list.

5.   Click on the "+" sign next to FCDMC Rain Gages, and also check the box. If necessary, double-click on the phrase "FCDMC Rain Gages" to zoom into the region covered by the gages.

6.   At this point, either clicking on a red icon on the map, or clicking on an underlined ID number in the list will bring up an information box for each gage as shown below:
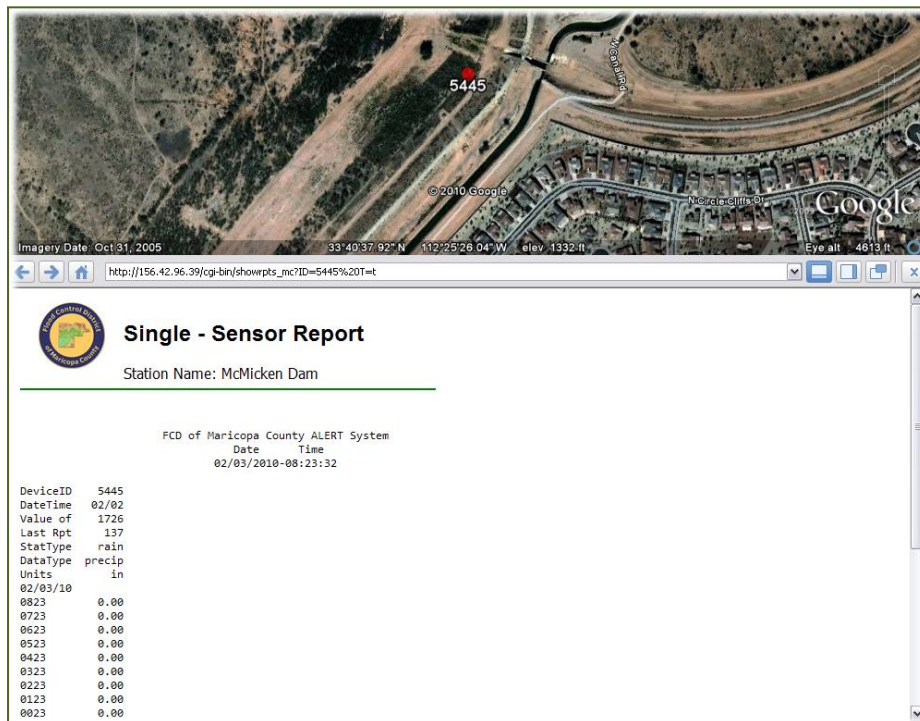
The info box contains some general information about the gage, with internet links to recent data, the gage's history document and the District's Rainfall Page.

7.   Double-clicking on the gage name in the list will cause Google Earth to zoom down to that gage. Again, either clicking the red icon on the map, or clicking the underlined ID number in the list will bring up an information box:
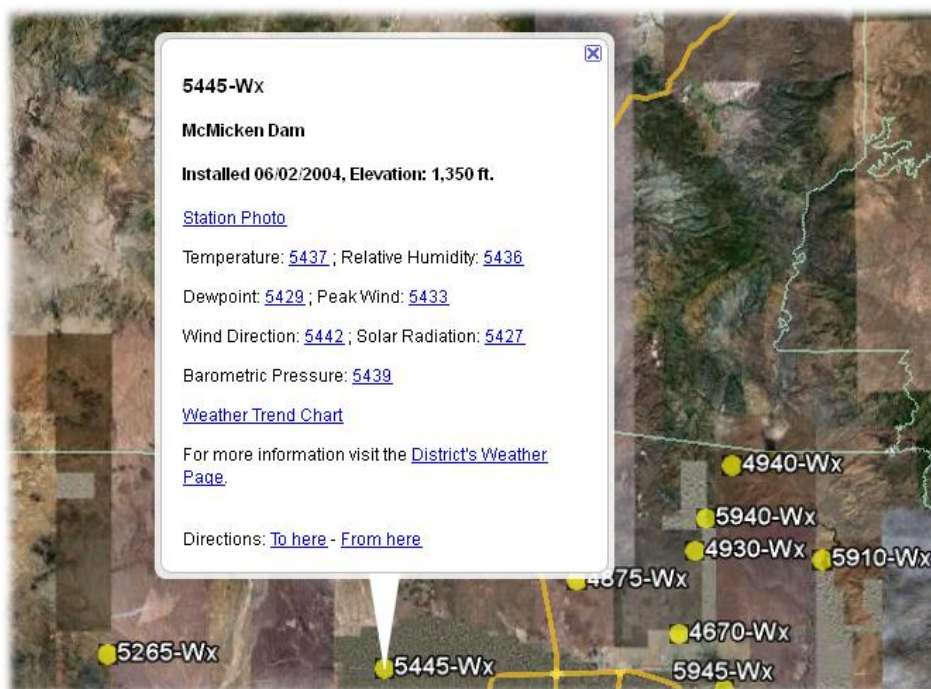

8.   Clicking on any of the internet links in the info box will display the information in a window below or on the side of your Google map.

Click the "X" as shown by the arrow above to close the browser and return to Google Earth.

9. Instructions 5 through 8 above also apply to the other gage types such as impoundment gages or stream gages. You will notice that each gage type has its own icon color. The info boxes and available products also vary with gage type, as shown below for a weather station:

10. The application is also capable of showing all the gage types at one time. In the places list, double-click on "FCDMC_ALERT_Stations_[XP or 64].kml and check the box. All the gage-type icons will appear on the map, with some overlapping of course. Expanding the place list by double-clicking on a particular gage name will zoom to that station and show at least two of the gages located there. A single click on the icon will reveal all the gages at the station, as shown below:

At this station, McMicken Dam, we see three gage types: rain (red), impoundment (orange) and weather sensors (yellow). Sliding the mouse to any of the colored icons and clicking will bring up the info box for that gage type.

11. If you wish to save the application to your "My Places" folder rather than "Temporary Places", simply click on "Save" rather than "Discard" when you close Google Earth. If you choose "Discard", you will need to open the application each time by double-clicking the .kml desktop icon created in step 2.